

REMARKS

Applicant hereby responds to the Decision on Appeal mailed March 10, 2011 in relation to the above-identified patent application. In that Decision, the Board affirmed the rejections of the pending claims as presented in the Final Office Action of January 7, 2005. In that Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 24-31 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the Asano et al. reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,929,513). Additionally, the Examiner rejected Claims 14-23 under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Lee reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,157,074) considered in combination with the Huang et al. reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,414,385).

Summary of Claim Amendments

By this Amendment, Applicant has amended each of independent Claims 14, 24 and 28 to characterize the leads of each set as being linearly aligned and arranged in “spaced, ***substantially parallel*** relation to each other ***along the entire lengths thereof***.”

Amended Independent Claims 24 and 28 are Not Anticipated by the Asano et al. Reference

In their amended form, independent Claims 24 and 28 each recite:

... *a peripheral tie bar; and*
*a plurality of leads extending from the tie bar in isolation from each other and segregated into two sets, the leads of each set being linearly aligned and arranged in spaced, ***substantially parallel*** relation to each other ***along the entire lengths thereof*** such that each of the leads of one set extends in opposed relation to a respective one of the leads of the remaining set...*

Applicant respectfully submits that at least the aforementioned features from each of amended independent Claims 24 and 28 are not satisfied by the Asano et al. reference. In the Decision on Appeal, the Board took note of the Examiner’s position that neither of Claims 24 and 28 in their previously presented form required that the “entire” length of the leads be in parallel. Thus, the Board agreed with the Examiner that the inner leads 33 of the leadframe 32 described in the Asano et al. reference read on such prior versions of Claims 24 and 28.

The Board further took the position that as a result of the recitation in the prior versions of Claims 24 and 28 of the leads being “generally parallel,” even though portions of the inner leads 33 of the Asano et al. reference may be at an angle relative to each other, they are still “generally parallel” since they do not cross each other. In this regard, the Board concluded that the recitation in Claims 24 and 28 of the leads being “generally parallel” does not preclude portions of such leads being bent.

The changes to independent Claims 24 and 28 highlighted above, wherein the leads of each set are now characterized as being arranged in spaced, *substantially parallel* relation to each other *along the entire lengths thereof*, are believed to differentiate such claims from the teachings of the Asano et al. reference. In this regard, Applicant respectfully submits that such changes follow the tacit indication in the Decision on Appeal regarding a basis of distinction of Claims 24 and 28 over the teachings of the Asano et al. reference.

Thus, based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claim 24 and 28 are not anticipated by the Asano et al. reference and are in condition for allowance, as are Claims 25-27 and 29-31 as being dependent upon respective allowable independent claims.

Amended Independent Claim 14 is Not Rendered Obvious by the Combination of the Lee and Huang et al. References

In independent Claim 14 in its amended form, the semiconductor package is described as comprising:

... a leadframe comprising a plurality of leads segregated into two sets, the leads of each set being linearly aligned and arranged in spaced, substantially parallel relation to each other along the entire lengths thereof such that each of the leads of one set extends in opposed relation to a respective one of the leads of the remaining set...

Applicant respectfully submits that at least the aforementioned features from amended independent Claim 14 are not satisfied by the Lee and Huang et al. references. In the Decision on Appeal, the Board also took note of the Examiner’s position that Claim 14 in its previously presented form did not require that the “entire” length of the leads be in

parallel. Thus, the Board agreed with the Examiner that the inner leads 6 described in the Lee reference read on such prior version of Claim 14.

The Board further took the position that as a result of the recitation in the prior version of Claim 14 of the leads being “generally parallel,” even though portions of the inner leads 6 described in the Lee reference may be at an angle relative to each other, they are still “generally parallel” since they do not cross each other. In this regard, the Board concluded that the recitation in Claim 14 of the leads being “generally parallel” does not preclude portions of such leads being bent.

The changes to independent Claim 14 highlighted above, wherein the leads of each set are now characterized as being arranged in spaced, *substantially parallel* relation to each other *along the entire lengths thereof*, are believed to differentiate such claims from the combined teachings of the Lee and Huang et al. references. In this regard, Applicant respectfully submits that such changes follow the tacit indication in the Decision on Appeal regarding a basis of distinction of Claim 14 over the teachings of such references.

Thus, based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claim 14 is not rendered obvious by the combination of the Lee and Huang et al. references, and is in condition for allowance, as are Claims 15-23 as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Conclusion

On the basis of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the stated grounds of rejection have been overcome, and that Claims 14-31 are now in condition for allowance. An early notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

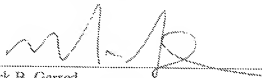
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If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account Number 19-4330.

Respectfully submitted,

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